

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12

RSR-01 ACDA-19 /111 W

----- 107151

R 041426 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8331

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3537

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IS

SUBJECT: HISTADRUT ELECTIONS

1. SERIOUS INTERNAL POLITICAL FIGHT AVERTED FOR TIME BEING WHEN LABOR PARTY MAY 3 AGREED TO HOLD HISTADRUT ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER AND DEFER DECISION ON WHO WILL BE NEXT HISTADRUT GENERAL SECRETARY UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS.

2. LABOR PARTY LEADERS ASSOCIATED WITH FINANCE MINISTER SAPIR HAD URGED HISTADRUT ELECTION BE HELD AFTER OCTOBER KNESSET ELECTION, MAINLY AS TACTICAL MOVE TO FACILITATE REPLACING INCUMBENT YITZCHAK BEN AHARON. IN GAINING SAPIR FACTION CONCESSION, BEN AHARON DROPPED HIS DEMAND THAT PARTY DESIGNATE NEXT HISTADRUT GEN SEC PRIOR TO HISTADRUT ELECTIONS. BEN AHARON AND COLLEAGUES IN ACHDUT AVODAH FACTION OF LABOR PARTY POSSIBLE SEE ADVANTAGE IN AVERTING SHOWDOWN WITH PARTY OVER DATE OF ELECTION IN FAVOR OF SAVING FIRE FOR ALL- OUT FIGHT TO CONTINUE BEN AHARON FOR SECOND TERM OF OFFICE.

3. AS HISTADRUT TOP POST ONE OF MOST INFLUENTIAL POSITIONS IN ISRAEL, CHOICE MAY LEAD TO SHARP INTERNAL PARTY FIGHT, PARTICULARLY AS LEFT ELEMENTS OF ALIGNMENT SUPPORT BEN AHARON IN FACE OF STRONG OPPOSITION OF DOMINANT SAPIR FACTION. POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER ON CHOICE OF HISTADRUT GENSEC NOT KNOWN. SHE IS DEEPLY DISTURBED BY BEN AHARON' S SHARP, CONSTANT CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT  
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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICIES AND HIS POSITION ON TERRITORIES  
POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUAL ( UNILATERAL WITHRIVAL N. Y.

5. PARTICULARLY WOULD APPRECIATE WHELAN NOTIFYING PETER MORTON  
OF ARCHITECTS COLLABORATIVE ( TAC) OF BOSTON THAT TOTOMIS DESIRES  
DISCUSS WITH HIM ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN OF TOURISM PROJECTS HE  
CONTEMPLATES. TOTOMIS WILLING TRAVEL BOSTON TO MEET MORTON OR  
OTHER TAC PARTNERS.  
TASCA

UNCLASSIFIED  
NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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